

C. W. BILL YOUNG, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN

RALPH REGULA, OHIO
JERRY LEWIS, CALIFORNIA
JOHN EDWARD PORTER, ILLINOIS
HAROLD ROGERS, KENTUCKY
JOE SKEEN, NEW MEXICO
FRANK R. WOLF, VIRGINIA
TOM DELAY, TEXAS
JIM KOLBE, ARIZONA
RON PACKARD, CALIFORNIA
SONNY CALLAHAN, ALABAMA
JAMES T. WALSH, NEW YORK
CHARLES H. TAYLOR, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID L. HOBSON, OHIO
ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR., OKLAHOMA
HENRY BONILLA, TEXAS
JOE KNOLLENBERG, MICHIGAN
DAN MILLER, FLORIDA
JAY Dickey, ARKANSAS
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, NEW JERSEY
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR., WASHINGTON
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM, CALIFORNIA
TODD TIAHRT, KANSAS
ZACH WAMP, TENNESSEE
TOM LATHAM, IOWA
ANNE M. NORTHUP, KENTUCKY
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, ALABAMA
JO ANN EMERSON, MISSOURI
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE
KAY GRANGER, TEXAS
JOHN E. PETERSON, PENNSYLVANIA

VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR., VIRGINIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 11, 2000

DAVID R. OBEY, WISCONSIN
JOHN P. MURTHA, PENNSYLVANIA
NORMAN D. DICKS, WASHINGTON
MARTIN OLAV SABO, MINNESOTA
JULIAN C. DIXON, CALIFORNIA
STENY H. HOYER, MARYLAND
ALAN B. MOLLOHAN, WEST VIRGINIA
MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
NANCY PELOSI, CALIFORNIA
PETER J. VISCLOSKEY, INDIANA
NITA M. LOWEY, NEW YORK
JOSE E. SERRANO, NEW YORK
ROSA L. DELAURIO, CONNECTICUT
JAMES P. MORAN, VIRGINIA
JOHN W. OLVER, MASSACHUSETTS
ED PASTOR, ARIZONA
CARRIE P. MEEK, FLORIDA
DAVID E. PRICE, NORTH CAROLINA
MICHAEL P. FORBES, NEW YORK
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
ROBERT E. "BUD" CRAMER, JR., ALABAMA
MAURICE D. HINCHEY, NEW YORK
LUCILLE ROYBAL ALLARD, CALIFORNIA
SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., ILLINOIS
CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MICHIGAN
ALLEN BOYD, FLORIDA

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES W. DYER

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Hon. David M. Walker
Comptroller General
United States General Accounting Office
Room 7125
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear General Walker:

This is to request the General Accounting Office's assistance in reviewing what I believe is a very serious problem plaguing our nation's military readiness. That is the availability and quality of spare parts for our aircraft, ships, vehicles and weapons systems.

As you know, I frequently visit with our troops at facilities throughout the world and one of the primary concerns I hear from enlisted members and officers alike is their concern about spare parts. This has been a major concern of my Committee and throughout the past five years, during my service as Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee and now the full Committee. During that time, in addition to fully funding the Department's request for spare parts embedded in training and other readiness related programs, we have increased funding by \$2.2 billion over the President's requests for Fiscal Years 1996-2000 to fund spare parts shortages identified by the military services.

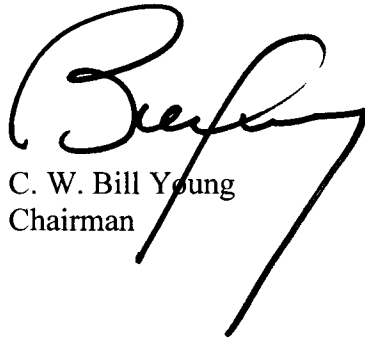
It would be appreciated if your staff could expedite a review to determine if there is a shortage of spare parts. If so, is this shortage in certain areas of the country or world or is it system-wide? Also, are these shortages department wide or only within certain services?

While undertaking this review, I also would ask your staff to review the quality of spare parts. Our troops in the field tell me that when they are finally able to get the spare parts they need, the parts often do not work. If there is a problem with quality is the problem in just certain areas or related to certain suppliers?

Finally, I have heard concerns about the use of rebuilt spare parts versus new spare parts. Please ask your staff to review whether there is a particular problem with the use of new versus used parts and whether this has a bearing on quality and the failure rate.

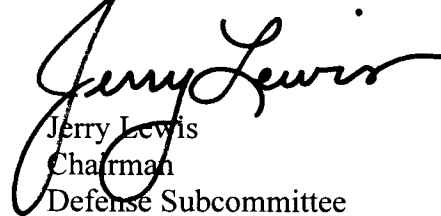
Our Committee soon will begin work on a Fiscal Year 2000 supplemental appropriations bill to be followed immediately by our work on the Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Appropriations Bill. If the problems related to the quality and supply of spare parts are as serious as I have heard from the men and women in the field, this is an issue we will want to address in both these bills. The GAO's findings and recommendations in this area will be critical to our work to provide for the safety and readiness of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, pilots, and Marines as they train and stand watch in defense of our great nation.

Thank you as always for the outstanding work of your investigators and for the invaluable support you provide to our Committee. With best wishes and personal regards, I am



C. W. Bill Young
Chairman

Very truly yours,



Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee